

September 28, 1966

Mr. Alexander Bodi
Editor
Palo Alto Times
Post Office Box 300
Palo Alto, California

Dear Mr. Bodi:

Thank you for your very gracious letter of the 19th of September, which certainly bespeaks your keen concern for the things I ~~care about~~ with respect to scientific communication with the public. *Shaw ??*

The follow-up story on the 28th is actually an excellent one, and it is rather too bad that it could not immediately accompany the first dispatch that was published on the 27th. There is perhaps still the residual issue of a fair accounting to Dr. Butler, but I doubt that he would be very deeply exercised except for the unnecessary furor of the first attribution having been taken seriously.

I am sure that both the Washington Post and I would be delighted if you cared to use the material from my column. I should point out ~~that~~ they hold the copyright on it as a regular feature of the Sunday edition. Mr. Howard Simons, Assistant Managing Editor, would be the person to contact for any necessary permission.

Yours cordially,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

P.S. I guess I see one point in the follow-up dispatch that might not be strictly true, namely that the U.S. government has neither the intention nor the ability to make an AAM. I surely hope it does not have the intention, but I am afraid the ability would exist without enormous technical difficulty, though it might imply spending quite a few dollars and violating our established commitments against nuclear explosions in space. A medium-sized thermonuclear weapon could do the job rather nicely if there were any point to it. Please don't take this as more than a gratuitous side comment.

Mr. Alexander Bodi

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P.S. (continued)

As a matter of information, did the follow-up story get into every edition of the Times on the 28th? I was on the lookout for such a follow-up at the time, but I may have been distracted by the crisis concerning the nurses.